



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Milwaukee County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 31, 2016

CONTACT: Kimberly Kane

414.202.5762

kimberly.kane@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Milwaukee Community Leader Appointed as Newest Member to Mental Health Board

Milwaukee, WI (October 31, 2016) The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MCMHB) announced Walter Lanier, M.DIV, J.D. as a new member of the board. Pastor Lanier currently leads the Progressive Baptist Church of Milwaukee. In addition, he is Director of Multicultural Services and Community Engagement for Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and is the founder of Lanier Law Offices, Ltd.

“Pastor Lanier brings more than 20 years of impressive professional and community experience to the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board, including business, fiscal, educational and community leadership,” says Duncan Shrout, Chair of the MCMHB. “Not only is he a practicing attorney, he is leading initiatives to help individuals, especially in our African American community, who struggle with mental health issues. He will be a great voice to have on our board.”

Pastor Lanier was appointed by Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele to fill the legal expertise position on the Mental Health Board.

“We worked closely with numerous organizations across Milwaukee County to identify individuals with legal expertise and significant experience in behavioral health,” says Abele. “Pastor Lanier is a leader in our African American community and was highly recommended. The position he fills on the board will provide critical context for board decision making around regulatory requirements, policies, procedures, provider responsibilities and patient rights.”

In addition to his work with Progressive Baptist Church and MATC, Pastor Lanier leads the Men of Color initiative for MATC, founder of the Mental Illness – Raising Awareness with Church and Community Leaders Everywhere (MIRACLE) program and founder of Great Lakes Urban Empowerment Solutions. He also serves on numerous boards including Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., Housing Ministries of American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, and Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope.

Pastor Lanier received his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School; Masters of Divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary; and he pursued advanced graduate work in transformational leadership from Bethel University.

About the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MHB) was established in 2014 through Wisconsin Act 203. The board is made up of 13 members and includes mental health professionals, consumers and advocates. The MHB is responsible for setting policy for the Behavioral Health Division.

About the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division

The Behavioral Health Division provides care and treatment to adults, children, and adolescents with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual disabilities through both County-operated programs and contracts with community agencies. Services include intensive short-term treatment through our crisis services and inpatient services, as well as a full array of supportive community services for persons with serious mental illness and

substance use disorders. Long-term inpatient care is provided through the Division's nursing home programs.

About the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services

The mission of the Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services is to enhance the quality of life for individuals who need support living healthy, independent, and safe lives within our community. Our vision is to be recognized as the public model of excellence, leadership, and partnership in human services driving superior outcomes for our community.

###

For more information about this topic or to schedule an interview contact Kimberly Kane at (414) 202-5762 or kimberly.kane@milwaukeecountywi.gov.